

Spiritual Blindness

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ~ 1 Corinthians 2:14

Discover the Context
1 Corinthians 2:6-16



“Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.”

~ John Newton (1779)



What impact does today's topic have on evangelism? Is salvation ultimately the work of man or the work of God? Does this remove the role of man's work? Why or why not?



God gave us five senses (touch, taste, smell, sight, and hearing), but humans rely predominantly on sight. Place an object from nature in a bag or clean sock. Don't let the campers look at it, but have them use their other senses to determine what the object is. Relate this to the spiritual blindness we have to the things of God. We are groping in the dark until God shows us the light.

A blind person must learn to function in a seeing world. Some are able to accomplish an amazing adaptation so that they can live what we who see would call a remarkably “normal” life. We gladly do all we can to help them, but are helpless to do what we would most want to do—give them sight.

Our text today reminds us that this is the natural condition of the campers we are working with. It is not simply that they are *unwilling* to discern spiritual things—Paul says that they are *unable* to understand spiritual things. Apart from the Spirit of God giving spiritual sight, these young people will remain in darkness forever. All of our labors will be simply training them to function more or less “normally” in a Christian context unless the Spirit of God gives light. Our task is ever to declare Jesus Christ, for it is the message of the cross that God uses to remove the darkness. And our need is ever to pray that the Spirit will take the things of Christ and reveal them to campers.

Pray that the Lord would give you patience, reminding you that you are dealing with spiritual blindness. So when a camper hears the gospel message and tells you he thinks it is foolish or useless, he is proving the Bible to be true, for that is exactly what this verse says. Don't be discouraged by this; rather, may the Lord stir in your heart a spirit of prayer.

This verse is a reminder that counselors are not all there is to camp ministry. Others on staff doing physical labor and working behind the scenes can be just as much involved in *prayer* for campers. May He remind you of His mighty power, and so give you hope. Who knows, the Lord may use you to do a spiritual miracle this day. This may be the day that someone would step from darkness into His marvelous light by the power of God's Spirit. [MJC]